

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153477

FOL REPEAT OF USUN 3174 TO SECSTATE INFO CARACAS JUN 27

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV ESCAP ECWA PLO

SUBJ: RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ISRAELI EXCLUSION FROM UN HABITAT

CONFERENCE TAKEN AT ESCAP/ECWA TEHRAN REGIONAL MEETING

REF: STATE 147095

1. AMB BENNETT PAID CALL ON PENALOSA TO TAKE UP POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL. BENNETT INDICATED OUR STRONG CONCERN FOR THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT TEHRAN HABITAT REGIONAL MEETING AND ATCAIRO REGIONAL MEETING. HE INDICATED THAT SHOULD ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENT BE EXCLUDED FROM HABITAT THAT US WOULD HAVE TO RE-ASSESS ITS POSITION WITH REGARD HABITAT AND IN LARGER CONTEXT, NOTING AS A RESULT OF RECENT DECISION BY ILO TO PROVIDE MEMBERSHIP TO PLO THE US CONGRESS HAS WITHHELD FUNDS. ALSO NOTED OUR APPRECIATION FOR PENALOSA'S EFFORTS IN TEHRAN AND CAIRO.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST TO ELABORATE ON THE EVENTS AT TEHRAN AND CAIRO, PENALOSA MADE THE FOLLOWING TWO POINTS: (1) THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD TRIED TO SMOOTH THE
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WATERS AS HAD THE IRAQIS; (2) THAT PROBABLY IF THE SEQUENCE

OF REGIONAL MEETINGS HAD BEEN REVERSED (ECLA FIRST, FOLLOWED BY CAIRO, FOLLOWED BY TEHRAN), THE OFFENSIVE RESOLUTION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED, OR AT LEAST CONFINED TO TEHRAN ALONE.

3. WITH REGARD THE FORTHCOMING REGIONAL MEETING IN CARACAS ON HABITAT, PENALOSA INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THE ISRAELI ISSUE TO ARISE. HE FORESEES THAT THE MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE IN CARACAS PROBABLY WILL BE WITH REGARD CHILE AND BRAZIL, NOTING THAT THE CUBAN DELEGATION WILL BE COMPRISED OF 40 PEOPLE HEADED BY A MINISTER.

4. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION PENALOSA VOLUNTEERED THAT HE, SPEAKING AS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE US, IS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE GENERALLY OVERALL LOW PROFILE THAT USG HAS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO HABITAT, ESPECIALLY THE PARTICIPATION BY THE USG IN THE REGIONAL MEETINGS WITH "SECOND-LEVEL PEOPLE". WENT ON TO STRESS, ON BASIS LATIN SENSITIVITY, IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AMBASSADOR ATTEND THE CARACAS MEETING, AT LEAST ON FIRST DAY WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA WILL MAKE AN ADDRESS. HE NOTED THAT AT LEAST 5 DELEGATIONS WILL BE HEADED BY MINISTERS, AND WENT ON TO PLEAD FOR MORE HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION BY THE US FOR ITS OWN SAKE.
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